



## Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

### Glossy buckthorn *Frangula alnus*

FOR THE WEEK OF:

APRIL 15-19, 2013

And

### Common buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*

**INVASIVE!**

#### Glossy buckthorn



Photo credit: W.H. Wagner

- **SIMILAR:** Small tree or shrub that can grow up to 20 feet tall and reaching 10 inches in diameter
- **DIFFERENT:** Leaves are simple, alternate, oblong, 1-2.5 inches long, untoothed margins, veins turn toward tip near leaf margins
- **STATUS:** Widespread. Can be found on shorelines, isolated open wetlands and forested wetlands.

**INVASIVE!**

#### Common buckthorn



Photo credit: R. W. Smith

- **SIMILAR:** Small tree or shrub that can grow from 10-25 feet tall and reaching 10 inches in diameter
- **DIFFERENT:** Leaves are simple, sub-opposite oval, small teeth along margins; veins that curve from base towards leaf tip
- **STATUS:** Widespread in Southern MI. Local populations can be dense in northern areas. Can be found in isolated open wetlands or forested wetlands

**Problem:** Both species leaf out early and retain leaves well into the fall which results in dense thickets of buckthorn that shades native plants and prevents native tree regeneration. Fruit has a laxative effect, so main dispersal is from birds. Further reading on common and glossy-buckthorn can be found on MIDNR's website: [www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies](http://www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies)